

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-13 (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A joint compound composition comprising:

- a) 50 to 60% of calcium sulphate hemihydrate;
- b) 5 to 15% of an organic binder in powder form; and
- c) 0.05 to 0.2% of a water repellent selected from the group consisting of oleic acid, stearic acid and their alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt.

15. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 14, which further includes:

- d) 1 to 10% of a lightening agent.

16. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 14, wherein the composition comprises 5 to 10% of the organic binder; 0.07 to 0.15% of the water repellent; and 3 to 7% of a lightening agent.

17. (Currently Amended) The joint compound composition according to Claim 14, wherein the calcium sulphate hemihydrate is of the alpha type form.

18. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 14, wherein the organic binder is selected from the group consisting of copolymers of vinyl esters and of ethylene monomers, polyacrylics, vinyl acetate/acrylic copolymers, styrene/acrylic and styrene/butadiene copolymers, vinyl acetate/vinyl versatate/acrylic and vinyl acetate/vinyl versatate/vinyl maleate terpolymers, acrylic terpolymers and blends thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 14, wherein the water repellent is selected from the group consisting of fatty acids, fatty acid salts, waxes and silicone derivatives.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 15, wherein the lightening agent is perlite.

22. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 15, wherein the lightening agent is non-water-repellent expanded perlite.

23. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 14, wherein the composition is in the form of a powder.

24. (Previously Presented) The joint compound composition according to Claim 14, wherein the composition is in the form of a powder composed of particles having a diameter of at most 200 microns.

25-31. (Canceled)

32. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a structure, in which:

- building elements are juxtaposed so as to define a space between said building elements;
- a joint compound composition is mixed with water so as to obtain a joint compound;
- said space is filled with said joint compound composition, without using a tape; and
- said joint compound is left to harden,

wherein said joint compound composition comprises:

- a) 50 to 60% of calcium sulphate hemihydrate;
- b) 5 to 15% of an organic binder in powder form; and
- c) 0.05 to 0.2% of a water repellent.

33. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 32, wherein the building elements are plasterboards coated with a paper facing.

34. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 32, wherein the joint compound composition further includes:

d) 1 to 10% of a lightening agent.

35. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 32, wherein the joint compound composition comprises 5 to 10% of the organic binder; 0.07 to 0.15% of the water repellent; and 3 to 7% of a lightening agent.

36. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 32, wherein in the joint compound composition the calcium sulphate hemihydrate is of the alpha type.

37. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 32, wherein in the joint compound composition the organic binder is selected from the group consisting of copolymers of vinyl esters and of ethylene monomers, polyacrylics, vinyl acetate/acrylic copolymers, styrene/acrylic and styrene/butadiene copolymers, vinyl acetate/vinyl versatate/acrylic and vinyl acetate/vinyl versatate/vinyl maleate terpolymers, acrylic terpolymers and blends thereof.

38. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 32, wherein in the joint compound composition the water repellent is selected from the group consisting of fatty acids, fatty acid salts, waxes and silicone derivatives.

39. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 32, wherein in the joint compound composition the water repellent is selected from the group consisting of oleic acid, stearic acid and their alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal salts.

40. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 34, wherein in the joint compound composition the lightening agent is perlite.

41. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 34, wherein in the joint compound composition the lightening agent is non—water—repellent expanded perlite.

42. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 32, wherein the joint compound composition is in the form of a powder.

43. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 32, wherein the joint compound composition is in the form of a powder comprised of particles having a diameter of at most 200 microns.

44. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 32, wherein the joint compound composition is a joint compound composition in the form of a powder, and the composition includes 5 to 10% of the organic binder and 0.07 to 0.15% of the water repellent, and the water repellent agent is selected from the group consisting of fatty acids, fatty acid salts and mixtures thereof.

45. (New) The joint compound composition according to Claim 14, wherein the water repellent is selected from the group consisting of oleic acid and its alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt.